

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 05009 241417Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----033546 241420Z /40  
P R 241259Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2937  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 5009

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, EAID, JO, IS, US  
SUBJECT: MAQARIN WORKING PAPER

REF: STATE 200965

1. WE HAVE REACTED LESS SHARPLY THAN DEPARTMENT  
TO ALON'S POSITION THAT IT WAS TIME TO END U.S.  
ROLE IN YARMOUK WATER RIGHTS QUESTION AND BEGIN  
"FACE-TO-FACE" ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL  
ON THE SUBJECT. OUR VIEW WAS PREDICATED ON THREE  
ASSUMPTIONS: A) THIS IS NOT A NEW POSITION, BUT  
SEEMS TO ARISE IN EACH OF OUR MEETINGS WITH THE  
ISRAELIS ON THE ISSUE, AND AT EACH POINT SEEMS  
TO SUBSIDE WHEN WE EXPLAIN OUR ROLE AND ITS PUR-  
POSE; B) THE JORDANIANS, AS DEPARTMENT INDICATES,  
DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY INTEREST IN CARRYING  
FORWARD A FACE-TO-FACE DIALOGUE WITH THE ISRAELIS  
ON THE ISSUE, PARTLY BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE IN THE  
ESSENTIALITY OF A U.S. ROLE TO PROVIDE THE BALANCE  
BETWEEN THE PARTIES, PARTLY BECAUSE IN THE PRESENT  
INTER-ARAB CONTEXT, ESPECIALLY WITH THE BEGIN  
GOVERNMENT'S RECENT WEST BANK MOVES, A LEAK WOULD  
BE EXTREMELY DAMAGING TO THEM; AND C) FINALLY,  
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WE HAVE SEEN SOME EVIDENCE THAT DAYAN RECOGNIZES  
THAT FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTERS TEND TO PRODUCE  
SUPER-HARD POSITIONS WHILE TALKING THROUGH THIRD  
PARTIES ALLOWS EACH SIDE TO LET ITS HAIR DOWN A  
BIT AND ALLOWS ALSO THE THIRD PARTY TO OPERATE AS  
A "MATCHMAKER" IN THE ABSENCE OF WHICH AGREEMENT  
IS MOST UNLIKELY.

2. GOJ REACTION TO ALON'S SUGGESTION--JORDAN  
WOULD BE UNLIKELY NOW TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY DIRECT  
CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELIS. GOJ WOULD BE VERY  
MUCH HURT BY ANY LEAKS WHICH COULD NOT BE EXPLAINED  
AWAY AS REFLECTING A U.S. MIDDLE-MAN ROLE RATHER  
THAN DIRECT CONTACTS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE  
NOW THAT PLO HAS STEPPED UP ITS PROPAGANDA ATTACKS  
ON JORDAN AND THE KING FOR ALLEGED CONTACTS WITH  
ISRAELIS.

3. WE HAD ASSUMED FROM QUICK DEBRIEF BY  
SECRETARY'S PARTY HERE GIVEN TO CROWN PRINCE  
HASSAN THAT BEGIN GOVERNMENT ALSO RETAINED SOME  
POSITIVE INTEREST IN THE PROJECT AND THAT IT WAS  
NOT OPPOSED TO OUR "INFORMAL GOOD OFFICES" ROLE  
WHICH WAS WORKED OUT EXPLICITLY WITH FULL APPROVAL OF  
LAST GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL. WE WONDER WHETHER ALON IS WINGING  
IT A BIT OR NOT? WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD AWAIT ISRAEL'S  
FORMAL COMMENTS ON OUR PAPER AND SEE WHETHER THE DESIRE  
FOR DIRECT MEETINGS WITH JORDANIANS IS REPEATED.  
IN THAT CASE, SUBJECT TO TEL AVIV'S JUDGEMENT, WE  
BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO EXPLAIN DIRECTLY  
TO DAYAN THE PROBLEM AND GET HIS REACTION BEFORE  
APPROACHING JORDANIANS OR TAKING ANY ADDITIONAL  
STEPS.  
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PICKERING

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PAPERS, DAMS, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, EAID, JO, IS, US  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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